(b) Authorised Dealers Full-fledged Money changers have been delegated full powers to sell foreign exchange worth US$, 500|- or its equivalent per person once in two calendar years to eligible travellers wishing to avail themselves of FTS facility against due endorsements made in their passports if and only if the following criteria are satisfied:—

(1) The intending applicant should be a person resident in India.

(2) The visit is proposed to be undertaken for any country in the world except Nepal and Bhutan.

(3) If a valid passport is produced.

(4) If the intending traveller has not availed himself|herself of FTS facility since the commencement of the previous calendar year.

(5) If a valid return ticket booked in India is produced.

(6) The visit under FTS is not in combination with NTS, export promotion and other business grounds and Haj pilgrimage.

The Reserve Bank of India is constantly monitoring the foreign exchange sold by Authorised Dealers|Full-fledged Money Changers under the Scheme.

(c) Data regarding foreign exchange released under FTS is not maintained country-wise.

Investment by non-resident Indians in Andaman and Nicobar Group of Islands

2963. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:

SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop one of the Andaman and Nicobar Group of Islands for the non-resident Indians for investment;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that non-resident Indians have been pressing the Government of India to make such a move; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (d) Some interest has been shown by some of the Non-resident Indians for Andaman and Nicobar Islands being developed as a free port. The feasibility of such a project has to be evaluated in terms of physical infrastructural facilities that have to be developed as also from the legal and constitutional angle. No decision has yet been taken on the matter.

Promotion of exports from Farm and Plantation sectors

2964. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has advised the State Governmenst to promote exports particularly from the farm and plantation sectors;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the details of the steps taken by Orissa and other State Governments for promoting exports from farm and plantation sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At a Conference of State Agriculture Production Commissioners organised by the Commerce Ministry, various issues relating to the generation of exportable surplus of commodities like Basmati Rice, Wheat of internationally acceptable quality,